

Capt Fritz

December 8, 1963

Mr. J. E. Curry
Chief of Police

Sir:

I wish to submit the following report relative to the transfer of Lee Oswald.

In the early afternoon of November 23, 1963 Chief Curry called me by telephone and asked me when we would be ready to transfer Oswald. Either this conversation or a later conversation I made some remark that I didn't know whether we were to transfer him or whether someone else was going to transfer him, and the Chief made some remark about talking to the Sheriff and that we were to transfer him. I told the Chief we were still talking to him, and he asked me if we could be ready to transfer him by 4:00 pm. I told him I didn't think we could finish our questioning by that time, and he asked me if we could be finished by 10:00 am the next morning. Chief Curry said, "I need to tell these people something definite." Who he was referring to I do not know. I told him I thought we could be ready by that time.

During the night or early morning hours of November 23, I received a telephone call from Captain W. B. Frazier, who told me that they were going to have to transfer Oswald as some threat had been received and that someone was going to try to kill him. I told Captain Frazier that no security had been set up for his transfer at that time and that he had better check with the Chief, as he was making some arrangements for the transfer. Later, Captain Frazier called me back and said that he was unable to reach the Chief and he was going to leave him where he was.

While interviewing Oswald on November 24 in conjunction with Harry D. Holmes, Post Office Inspector, Forrest Sorrells and Tom Kelly of the Secret Service, and in the presence of L. D. Montgomery, L. C. Graves, J. R. Leavelle and C. N. Dhority of the Homicide and Robbery Bureau, Chief Curry came to the office and

asked if I was ready to transfer the prisoner to the Dallas County Jail. James Bookhout, F. B. I. and possibly other officers, who were assisting in the investigation and questioning, were standing in or just outside my office door. I told him I was ready to start any time the security was completed. Chief Curry advised me that the large cameras had been moved away from the jail office and that everything was prepared and that the people had been moved back across Commerce and that some newsmen would be in the basement, but would be well back in the garage.

Someone had ordered an armored truck, and it was agreed that we let a police car lead the armored truck as if the prisoner was in it, and when he turned to the left off Commerce where he was to go to Elm and turn left, while we would actually have the prisoner in an unmarked police car and turn to the left on Main Street followed by another group of officers in another police car and take him to the County Jail.

Security had been set up, we were told, at the County Jail, and I instructed the officers in the car that did not have the prisoner to drive just past the back entrance to the County Jail, and we would drive in the passageway made for unloading prisoners where a steel door could be dropped down behind us.

Chief Curry then told me that he and Chief Stevenson, who was with him, would go on to the County Jail and meet us there.

I instructed James R. Leswelle to handcuff his left hand to the prisoner's right hand. The prisoner was already handcuffed. I instructed L. C. Graves to walk to his left and L. D. Montgomery directly behind him, and I told them that I would walk in front of the prisoner out of the door to the car. We decided that the best route would be through the jail and out of the left door

of the jail and then to the basement giving us but a few feet to the car.

As we were leaving to go to the jail elevator, I told Det. T. L. Baker to call downstairs and tell them we were on the way down and have the car ready. Det. Baker called and Lt. Wiggins said all was clear.

Before taking the man out of the jail office I asked one of the uniform officers who was standing to my right if everything was secure. I believe that two officers answered me that everything was all right. I then advised the officers following me to come on, and at this moment Officer Dhority, who was driving the police car for the prisoner, was backing into position with the police car we were to put the prisoner in. As I reached for the car door and told the officer to put him in the car, I heard a shot. On my left I saw Officer Graves and a number of officers grab this man and pull him to the pavement. Det. Graves twisted the gun from his hand and handed it to me. The prisoner was carried into the jail office and a doctor was summoned and arrived almost immediately and went to work with the prisoner until an ambulance arrived. Some of the other officers took the man that I found was Jack Ruby up into the jail.

I instructed Officers Dhority, Leavelle and Graves to ride with the prisoner in the ambulance. Dets. E. R. Beck, L. D. Montgomery, C. W. Brown and myself followed the ambulance to the hospital, where security was kept until he was released to an undertaker.

Immediately after the shooting, I asked Detective Dhority to contact the captain of the Uniform Division to secure the names of all of the people in the basement at the time of the shooting.

J. W. Fritz